

Manager's union disbanded

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The Duxbury manager's union, which was formed in early 2008 and included many town department heads, has been dissolved.

Town Manager Richard MacDonald announced that SEIU local 888 no longer represents the professional supervisory unit. They are now covered under the personnel plan.

The union began in early 2008 as the Duxbury Professional Employees Association (DPEA) and was led by then Police Chief Mark DeLuca and Library Director Elaine Winquist. Eventually, the group became part of SEIU, although DeLuca was not part of it.

The move created some tension in town, with union members accusing town officials of dragging their feet in an open letter published in the Clipper. Some town officials felt the union could be divisive or conflict with established review procedures.

The Board of Selectmen voted to raise several administrative fees at their meeting Monday night, citing declining town revenues and the fact that many of the fees hadn't been raised in several years.

CHANGING FEES

The following are the fees that will be increased effective Sept. 1

- Animal Shelter Boarding Fee:** \$10 per day – \$20 per day
- Town Fee for ABCC application:** \$75 – \$125
- One-Day Liquor License:** \$20 – \$30
- *Innholder:** \$25 – \$50
- Ice Cream Truck:** \$20 – \$25
- Hot Dog Cart:** \$20 – \$25
- Dog License (Male):** \$12 – \$15
- Dog License (Female):** \$12 – \$15
- Dog License (Altered Male):** \$7 – \$10
- Dog License (Altered Female):** \$7 – \$10
- Residential construction:** \$90 per sq. ft. – \$100 per sq. ft.
- Garage:** \$45 per sq. ft. – \$50 per sq. ft.
- Finished basement/garage under:** \$34 per sq. ft. – \$40 per sq. ft.
- Porch:** \$45 per sq. ft. – \$50 per sq. ft.
- Deck:** \$34 per sq. ft. – \$40 per sq. ft.
- Commercial/mixed use:** \$77 per sq. ft. – \$80 per sq. ft.
- Build-out commercial/mixed use:** \$34 per sq. ft. – \$40 per sq. ft.
- Demo permit (residential):** \$110 – \$125
- Demo permit (commercial):** \$165 – \$175
- Home occupation:** \$55 – \$60
- Certificate of occupancy:** \$33 – \$35
- Sign permit (residential):** \$33 – \$35
- Sign permit (commercial):** \$55 – \$100
- Wood stove:** \$55 – \$60
- Zoning Permit:** \$33 – \$35
- Additional plumbing fixture (commercial):** \$11 – \$15
- Gas, additional fixture (residential):** \$9 – \$10
- Gas, additional fixture (commercial):** \$11 – \$15
- Replace hot water heater (residential):** \$50 – \$60
- Replace hot water heater (commercial):** \$70 – \$80

• Requires a vote of Town Meeting

Frank Mangione of the Fiscal Advisory Committee gave his board's recommendations. Most of the increases were minor, but Mangione said many of them were long overdue.

"It's time and effort," he said of the justification for the fee hikes. "The town manager's office has to put in a lot of hours completing these forms."

The extra revenue raised from increasing the Board of Selectmen fees is only projected to be a few thousand dollars, according to a spread sheet prepared by the town manager and his staff.

The board also voted to increase a number of building fees. Director of Inspectional Services Scott Lambiase said the fees are based on an estimate of how much a home costs to build, per square foot.

"We're just trying to be a little more realistic to what it actually costs to build the houses," he said, adding that there is also a deficit in his department's budget. "We're trying to bridge that gap."

The increased fees in this department are projected to bring in an additional \$27,258.07. All of the new fees will be effective start-

ing Sept. 1. Dahlen abstained from voting on the inspectional services fees as he is in the construction business.

(For a full listing of the fee increases voted on Monday, see sidebar.)

In other business:

- Resident Jim Sullivan came before the board to ask for an update on the cafeteria workers whose benefits were cut last year. Dahlen said that the schools signed an agreement with the company Chartwells to privatize the school lunch program. He said that 23 of the workers have agreed to interview with the new company. Dahlen said the move would turn a \$160,000 loss last year to a potential gain of over \$100,000 in school budget "based upon the contract they signed."

However, Sullivan was still angry that the workers were, in his opinion, treated unfairly.

"We teach our children not to be bullies ... these are the most defenseless employees on the payroll," he said.

- The board approved an

event permit for a hunger walk, run by the Pilgrim Church, on Oct. 16.

- The Selectmen approved a gift of \$250 from the Newcomers Club to the Percy Walker Pool.

- The board appointed the members of the Crematory Building Committee as special municipal employees.

- The Selectmen called for a state primary election on Sept. 14. Voting will take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the middle school.